Autumn Internationals: Ireland Announce Autumn Squad

Andy Farrell’s Ireland squad are pacing up measures for what promises to be one of the climaxes of their rugby calendar, an epic Autumn Internationals Series presenting four headline Tests across November. The official team statement is scheduled for Wednesday at 4 p.m., and excitement among fans, pundits, and former players has been steadily building.

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Much of the discussion revolves around which experienced names will return, which younger stars might earn a revolution, and how Farrell plans to balance newness with expertise after a taxing year of Autumn Internationals fixtures. Ireland will take off their drive with a long-awaited showdown against New Zealand at Chicago’s iconic Soldier Field on Saturday, November 1.

That venue still holds a special place in Irish rugby history; it was there in 2016 that Ireland famously defeated the All Blacks for the first time. This year’s encounter will carry a sense of nostalgia as well as renewed ambition, offering Farrell’s side a stern early test against one of the sport’s greatest and most consistent forces.

After the U.S. trip, Ireland will enjoy three consecutive weekends of home rugby at Dublin’s Aviva Stadium, hosting Japan, Australia, and South Africa in succession. Each opponent poses a unique challenge: Japan’s rapid tempo and tactical

sharpness, Australia’s flair under new management, and South Africa’s familiar blend of power and precision.

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Farrell Faces Key Selection Calls Ahead of Autumn Internationals 2025

The trio’s visits promise a diverse mix of styles that will thoroughly test Ireland’s adaptability and depth. All three southern hemisphere giants have been in strong form, with South Africa ultimately claiming this year’s Rugby Championship title. That dominance guarantees that Farrell’s men will face elite opposition throughout November in the Autumn Internationals 2025.

For the head coach, it’s a valuable opportunity to assess his squad before the next Six Nations campaign. His coaching philosophy, built around consistency, cohesion, and mental resilience, will be measured against some of the world’s best-performing teams. Among the players expected to feature are Leinster duo Caelan Doris and Joe McCarthy, both nearing full fitness after injury lay-offs.

Leinster head coach Leo Cullen recently confirmed the pair were making excellent progress, explaining that medical staff would conduct final checks before confirming their availability for Chicago. Their return would strengthen Ireland’s pack considerably: Doris offers leadership and dynamism from the back row, while McCarthy’s physicality and line-out work have made him a rising star.

Another major talking point ahead of the Autumn Internationals is the competition for the No. 10 jersey. Farrell has yet to confirm who will start at fly-half against the All Blacks, leaving Jack Crowley, Sam Prendergast, and Harry Byrne all in contention. Crowley ended last season as the frontrunner, but both Prendergast's form and Byrne's sharpness in training have reportedly impressed the selectors.

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Ireland Vs New Zealand: Farrell Balances Youth, Experience in Final Squad Decisions

The final call may depend on the tactical demands of the fixture, whether Farrell opts for a steady game manager or a more attacking, risk-taking playmaker. In response to recent speculation that his squad is growing old, Farrell dismissed the narrative, saying age is less important than form and attitude. He maintains that the blend of experience and emerging talent keeps the team evolving.

The official squad list for the Autumn Internationals, set to be unveiled on Wednesday, is expected to underline that balance, with several up-and-coming players pushing for inclusion. Fitness concerns, however, linger over two established internationals, Robbie Henshaw and Craig Casey.

Henshaw was taken off early during Leinster's win over the Sharks as a precaution and will undergo further medical tests, while Casey continues to recover from a thigh strain but could return within a few weeks, depending on medical advice. At

full-back, the No. 15 shirt is up for grabs following Hugo Keenan’s long-term absence after hip surgery, which will rule him out until 2026.

Jacob Stockdale has impressed for Ulster in the position under Richie Murphy, showcasing strong positioning and counter-attacking pace. Reports from The Irish Times suggest Stockdale is very much in the mix for selection ahead of Ireland vs New Zealand. Jimmy O’Brien and Jamie Osborne also remain in contention as Farrell carefully weighs his backfield options.

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